Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0644

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EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR KS US

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON KOREAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL

REF: STATE 102255 TOSEC 040193

- 1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL, I GOT IN TOUCH WITH FONMIN TO INFORM HIM REGARDING PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT. I ALSO ARRANGED TO HAVE TEXT OF STATEMENT SENT TO HIM QUICKLY AT HIS RESIDENCE.
- 2. I EXPLAINED TO FONMIN BACKGROUND OF STATEMENT, STRESSING OUR DESIRE TO HANDLE TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSFER LEGISLATION IN MOST RESPONSIBLE FASHION INSURING THAT ACTIONS DO NOT WEAKEN DEFENSES OF KOREA. GIVEN POSSIBILITY OF DELAYS BY CONGRESS ON COMPENSATORY MEASURES, DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AS SET FORTH IN PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT.
- 3. FONMIN WAS APPRECIATIVE FOR INFORMATION PROVIDED AND SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED GIST FROM AMBASSADOR KIM BUT WELCOMED FURTHER DETAILS. HE QUESTIONED ME CLOSELY ON WHETHER WITHDRAWALS SET FORTH IN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD REQUIRE ANY COMCONFIDENTIAL

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PENSATORY MEASURES. I ASSURED HIM THAT OUR POLICY REMAINED TO CONDUCT WITHDRAWAL ONLY IN PARALLEL WITH COMPENSATORY MEASURES AND THAT IN THIS CONTEXT I WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITHDRAWALS PROJECTED ARE SUCH THAT THEY CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED EVEN THOUGH TRANSFER LEGISLATION MAY NOT BE PASSED. I NOTED THAT STATEMENT URGES CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE MILITARY ASSISTANCE CREDITS AS WELL AS MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO DEAL WITH EQUIPMENT TRANSFER

LEGISLATION. BUT WE RECOGNIZE GIVEN MANY URGENT LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS FACING CONGRESS IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACT ON TRANSFER LEGISLATION.

4. FONMIN IN CONCLUSION EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH OUT ACTION BUT REGISTERED SOME UNHAPPINESS THAT WE WERE NOT ABLE TO CONSULT WITH ROKG IN ADVANCE BEFORE MAKING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. I TOLD FONMIN THAT I ASSUME THAT CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES WERE SUCH THAT IT WAS FELT NECESSARY TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT QUICKLY, ALTHOUGH WE HAD HOPED TO HAVE TIME FOR ADVANCE CONSULTATION.

5. GENERAL VESSEY ALSO MET WITH DEFENSE MINISTER TO PROVIDE HIM WITH TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT. FURTHER, I HAVE JUST TALKED TO PRESIDENT PARK'S CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY, WHO TOLD ME THE PRESIDENT WAS QUICKLY ADVISED BY FONMIN OF ANNOUNCEMENT AND THAT HE IS "SATISFIED" WITH ITS SUBSTANCE. SNEIDER

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